domestic tourism. The package tours are sold through Indian Airlines approved travel agents. A discount of 15% on normal rupee fare is allowed. Agent is also entitled to normal commission on the fare plus 2% incentive commission under this scheme.

IGI Airport

3641. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in The Indian Express, New Delhi edition dated the 9th April, 2002 about the New Delhi international airport;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction to the observations made about the state of affairs of the IGI Airport; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken, if any, to improve the situation thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) All efforts are being made to maintain the facilities at Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi at par with international standards. Enough restaurant facilities are available in the visitors area at departure level, check-in area and transit lounge. The restaurants in check-in area and transit lounge are being maintained by India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) while the one in the visitors area is managed by a private agency. Duty free shops are being run and maintained by the ITDC, which has the desired expertise. The capacity of International Departure is 1050 passengers per hour and that of International Arrival is 1200 passengers per hour. Efforts are being made to enhance the capacity by shifting/ rearranging some of the facilities to reduce congestion. No major construction activity is being taken up at Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai and Kolkata Airports as the Government has decided to restructure these airports through long term leasing to the private investors,

where in private investors will be required to undertake specified capacity expansion projects in the short term and to meet internationally accepted performance criteria in the long term. All the aerobridges are functioning normally and there are two car parks, *viz.*, Premium car park next to Terminal Building and a General Car Park. Normally, it does not take more than two to three minutes to go out of the car park after parking. The trolleys are maintained in a satisfactory working condition and maintenance of trolleys is carried out regularly. Floors of their terminals and city side verandah are smooth and there is no problem of pushing the trolleys. Bunching of flights during night, at Indian airports, is primarily due to night curfews imposed at airports in East and West of India which necessitates flights from such destinations to operate during night at Indian and other Asian Airports. Airport upgradation is an on-going process, and all efforts are made by AAI to maintain the services at the desired levels.

Difficulties faced by passengers at Chennai Airport

3642. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Indian Express, New Delhi, dated the 12th April, 2002 captioned 'At Chennai Airport, your long journey begins when you land';

(b) if so, the details in this regard and Government's reaction to the observations made about the state of affairs at the airport and the difficulties being faced by the passengers; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken, if any, to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There is space crunch at Chennai Airport due to bunching of flights which is primarily due to night curfews imposed at